

II. REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-23 and 25-30 are currently pending. Claims 31-42 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the Office Action of June 16, 2005 that claims 1-30 are allowed.

B. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 31, 38 and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Barcelli et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,922,769, hereinafter referred to as "the '769 patent").

Applicants note that claims 31, 38, and 40-42 have been cancelled, therefore this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over claim 31, 38 and 40-42.

C. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 31-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Barcelli et al., the '769 patent.

Applicants note that claims 31-42 have been cancelled, therefore this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the rejection of claims 31-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

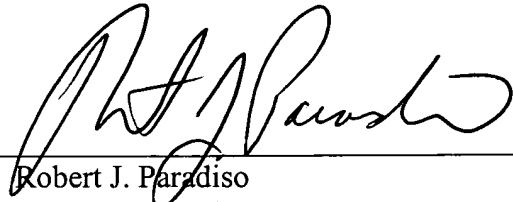
III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: _____



Robert J. Paradiso
Reg. No. 41,240

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940